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Portland, OR 97206

August 15, 2016

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 19 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
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Portland, OR 97205

A local problem deserves a local solution rather than a federal agency forcing its own solutions on Portland. The Willamette River is healing itself slowly but effectively, and we don't care for an imposed cleanup solution from Washington. The EPA's current plan to dredge up the ten miles of riverbed that has been designated for years as a Superfund site would do just that.

There are many reasons why this is a bad plan. It is very costly, it will take years or decades to complete, and will greatly affect how residents and businesses in Portland use the Willamette River. All that dredging work won't be a positive thing for our local economy or for recreation. Such a large amount of money--up to \$1.4 billion--would be much better spent promoting the ecological welfare of the entire area surrounding the river, or to enhance social services.

But most of all, for me, it's the problem that comes from an imposed, outside solution. We all agree that preventing the adverse environmental effects of pollution in the Willamette is a worthwhile goal. What we don't agree on is the best way to get that done. The EPA's own guidelines for projects such as this require that this federal agency listen to the concerns of affected local businesses and residents, then get their buy-in for the project. I don't buy in, and I think many others in Portland feel the same way. It's a waste of money to spend a billion dollars on a river cleanup plan that isn't needed. It's a lack of respect for those of us who live and work here for the EPA to fail to listen to what we think needs to be done.

Sincerely,

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